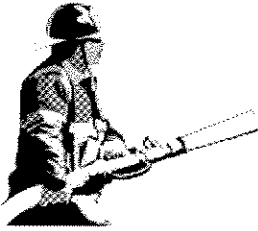
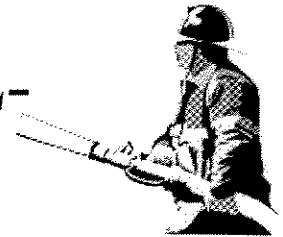


Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515



STOP, DROP, & ROLL-

back healthcare costs for public safety officers



Dear Colleague:

In every community in the United States, firefighters, paramedics, and law enforcement personnel regularly risk their health and their lives to protect the public.

Firefighters, for example, are six times more likely to be injured on the job than the average private sector worker. One in three firefighters is injured in the line of duty every year.

Because of the physical demands and unique job hazards faced by public safety officers, they often retire earlier than other occupations and face significant healthcare needs.

Unfortunately, many retirees lose their employer-provided health insurance and are years away from being Medicare-eligible, which forces them to spend their retirement money on health insurance premiums.

The **Healthcare Enhancement for Local Public Safety (HELPS) Retirees Act** would provide a modest tax benefit to help retired public safety officers afford health insurance. The bill would allow retirees to use up to \$5,000 annually from their pension funds to pay for premiums on healthcare and long-term care insurance without taxing these distributions.

The proposal does not create new healthcare programs or provide public safety officers access to healthcare options they don't already have. It simply makes existing options more affordable.

America's firefighters, police officers, and paramedics deserve our thanks and our respect. They should be afforded a small measure of protection against exorbitant healthcare costs that follow a career spent responding to emergencies in hazardous environments. For more information, or to be an original co-sponsor of this bill, please contact Rich Dunn with Rep. Chocola (5-3915) or Peg McGlinch with Rep. Neal (5-5601).

Sincerely,

A stylized, handwritten signature of Chris Chocola in black ink.

Chris Chocola
Member of Congress

A stylized, handwritten signature of Richard Neal in black ink.

Richard Neal
Member of Congress